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Soviet Political Pressure on Ethnic Germans

2 November 1948

1. In accordance with an order dated 3 November 1948 of the Soviet Komendatura in Baden, near Vienna, no ethnic Germans are, in future, to receive permits to reside in the Baden area. All such persons now residing in this area are required to register with the Komendatura and may not move away without special permission of the Komendatura. Ethnic Germans who have made inquiries at the Komendatura about the order were informed that, although no special measures against ethnic Germans are planned for the present, it would be safest for them to become members of the Communist Party.

CP Front Organizations

13 - 20 November 1948

2. The Association of Anti-Fascist Freedom Fighters (Verband der antifaschistischen Freiheitskämpfer u. ehemaliger Schutzbündler) had been penetrated by Communists to a considerable degree. Recently, upon instructions of the CP, changes were made in the management of the organizations. As a result, the Communists are now in complete control. This may be observed from the following list of officials:

President: Franz Honner  
Vice-president: Dr. Heinrich Duertrayer  
Secretary: Max Schneider (CP member)

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Cashiers: Franz Luder (CP member and head of personnel for workers in USIA plants)

Members of the steering committee: Zale Schwager, Franz Gebhardt, Erich Fein, Otto Dorfer, Engineer Armand Fischer, Josef Gradl, Johann Hamerling (all CP members).

September - 9 November 1948

3. Ruth Fischer, wife of the prominent Communist Ernst Fischer, was dismissed from her post in the Society for the Cultivation of Economic and Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union in September or October 1948. When she lodged a protest with the CP Central Committee she was reinstated and now holds the second most important position in the management of the Society, where she is responsible directly to Dr. Nikolaus Hovorka. Among the other directors of the Society are Walter Fischer (brother of Ernst Fischer), Gruenberg, and Brueck. All directors of the Society receive a monthly salary of 1,200 schillings with an additional 2,400 schillings for expenses; these funds are supplied by the CP Central Committee. The Society, with its publication Die Bruecke, employs twenty-eight persons.

23 November 1948

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4. The Communist-dominated Union of Concentration Camp Inmates (KZ-Verband) held its annual meeting in Vienna on 20 - 21 November 1948. ~~Comment:~~ The KZ-Verband, formerly a national, non-political organization, was disbanded by order of the Austrian Government. However, it has been reported by other sources that the Communists in the former KZ-Verband have continued their association in a new KZ-Verband.) No changes were made in the leadership of the organization; the leading positions are still held by Heinrich Duermayer, Dr. Wilhelm Steiner, Father Kuermayer, Police Commissioner Fels-Margoulis, and Dr. Hermann Wenkart. Wenkart stated that even as late as three years after the war, the KZ-Verband is still one of the best instruments for obtaining approval of CP projects and for placing CP personnel. As an organization of former victims of political persecution, the KZ-Verband can claim favors which the CP could never obtain in its own name. Wenkart mentioned specifically his success in obtaining government pensions for 80 members of the CP who were also members of the KZ-Verband.

#### Miscellaneous Data on CP Personalities

24 November 1948

5. Eduard Kral: Party leader (Obmann) for Vienna II; has been commended by his superiors for his activity in eliminating "nationalist and reactionary opposition" within the CP.
- Dr. Ludwig Berg: CP official who also works for the Soviet Komendatura in Vienna II and was once head of the Communist organization Kinderland; was scheduled to visit Prague on 2 December 1948 to represent the Austrian CP at a Czechoslovak Communist rally. He was to be accompanied by a certain Singer (fnu) who lives in Vienna II, Taborstrasse 20a.
- Martin Hornik: Official in the information and news section of the Central Committee; relieved of his functions at the Central Committee because of alleged irregularities. He has not been expelled from the CP but has been made an honorary official in the Bezirksleitung (district headquarters committee), Vienna XII. Hornik is 42 years old; height 1.68 meters; married and has two children. ~~Comment:~~ Although

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Hornik had been previously reported as a member of the CP Central Committee, he is not named as a member in the official list published in the Volkstimme on 3 November 1948.) Another source reports that Moscow insisted on Hornik's exclusion from the CP Central Committee in order to leave him a free hand.

25X1A6a Robert Dubovsky: CP member of the Upper Austria Landtag; was reprimanded by the Central Committee for his alleged lethargy; lives in Linz. (Comment: Dubovsky is a member of the Central Committee.)

4 November 1948

25X1A6a 6. Late in October 1948, the Austrian Ministry of the Interior revoked the passport of Heinrich Duermayer, Communist and former chief of the State Police. The Ministry took this action because of an anti-Austrian speech which Duermayer delivered in late October at a gathering of German Communists in Leipzig. Duermayer's passport was invalidated after he had presented it with an application for a Czechoslovak visa. He plans to contest this action. (Comment: Duermayer will probably be successful in obtaining a new passport. The Ministry's step is significant, however, in indicating its hostile attitude toward the CP.)

Central Committee Project to Determine CP Strength16 November 1948

25X1A6a 7. The Central Committee has ordered all CP district organizations to submit a complete list of all relatives and family members of CP members enrolled in each district organization, together with the political affiliations of all these persons. This order was issued in mid-November 1948 with instructions that complete information be submitted within a month. The Wiednerbezirksorganisation (Vienna IV) was the first district organization to start work on this project. It is considered probable that this scheme was initiated by the Soviets to ascertain the correctness of the most recent Central Committee estimates of Party strength in Vienna. In September 1948, the Central Committee had reported to the Soviets that about 60% of the Viennese population favors the Socialist Party, 25% the People's Party, and about 9% the Communist Party. (Comment: This would account for only 94% of the electorate.) Of the Socialists, about 25% are stated to belong to the left wing of the Socialist Party. Source probably means that the left wing Socialists were said to constitute 25% of the alleged 60% of the Viennese population controlled by the Socialists, or 15% of the electorate.)

Return of CP Members from Training in Germany (Soviet Zone)16 November 1948

25X1A6a 8. According to information [redacted], the Communists who left Vienna in mid-September 1948 for special training in the Soviet Zone of Germany have recently returned to Vienna. About 140 Communists from Vienna IX and about 300 from the Soviet sector of Vienna are involved. (Comment: This movement was reported in [redacted]) The total number of Communists sent from Austria to receive the training is estimated at 800. All groups were sent to Germany via Czechoslovakia and may have received training in Berlin. About 690 have now returned. 25X1A2g

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Conference of Czech and Austrian Communists28 November 1948

9. Three Communist officials from Czechoslovakia arrived in Vienna on 25 November 1948 for conferences with Austrian Central Committee members, possibly in order to discuss the 1949 Austrian elections. One of the Czechoslovak representatives is believed to have been a certain Horvath or Horvac, said to be a veteran member of Czechoslovak Communist circles. The Vienna meeting was attended by the following Austrian Communists: Friedl Fuernberg, Franz Honner, Josef Lauscher, Gottlieb Fiala, Franz Marek, and Johann Koplenig. The Austrian Communists requested that Czechoslovak workers' organizations invite delegations of Austrian workers, most of whom are Socialists, to visit Czechoslovakia and view all the improvements which have been introduced by the Communist government there. The Czechoslovak Communists did not seem to welcome this suggestion. In the course of further discussions, the Czechoslovak delegates proposed an unspecified amount of financial assistance to the Austrian CP for election campaign expenses. Further discussions concerning the raising of campaign funds were planned to be held in Prague in December 1948, at which time delegates of the Austrian CP would attempt to arrive at an exact sum; two Austrian CP officials, probably Marek and Honner, were scheduled to visit Budapest in December 1948 to deal with the same matter.

Contributions to Jewish Communists for Palestine Aid29 November 1948

10. Karl Haber, CP official working in the youth movements, is reported to have stated that Jewish CP members have received substantial contributions for Palestine aid from a factory owner named Orenstein and from a certain Hirschler.
- 25X1A6a ~~Comment:~~ Orenstein may possibly be one of the owners of Orenstein & Koppel Oesterreichische A.G., now Bahnbedarf A.G., Vienna III, Invalidenstrasse 5.) Paul Skutetzky, employee of Paloest (Palestinian-Austrian commercial company, Vienna I, and der Huelben 1, headed by Israel Silberknopf) has stated that Jewish members of the CP have drawn up plans for a drive to raise funds. The funds are to be used partly to defray the expenses of Paloest and partly to finance local purchases of arms and freight charges on transit shipments of arms from Czechoslovakia.

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